



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

January - March 1998

Volume 20, No. 1

Journal remarks.

The biggest news for this issue is details on some changes in the Journal to make it even better and improve delivery times.

This next issue of the Journal will carry new deadline times for submission of material. In the past we have carried a deadline time a month ahead of the printing and mailing. This was not adequate for the Editor, so it has been changed to get things back on track. The deadline for the issues will be as follows:

Old	New	Issue
Feb	Jan	March issue (Spring)
May	April	June issue (Summer)
Aug	July	Sept issue (Fall)
Nov	Oct	Dec issue (Winter)

(Note: In the Spring issue of the Journal both the Editor and I did not do this listing correctly.)

Please, consider the deadline time as that after which no material will be accepted, unless the Editor might need more material. Try to get your material in early, not at the last minute. All MATERIAL IS TO GO THROUGH HEADQUARTERS. First it has to be conditioned so the Editor can use it. Secondly, depending upon the presentation, we have to process it so he can take it into the Journal.

We receive material in all kinds of forms. Primarily we would like it as an attachment to an e-mail message, or as the contents of an e-mail message for those of you who might be using Juno.com. If you cannot do that, then save it as an ASCII file (called .TXT) and send it on a disk to us. For those that cannot save to a disk, better learn how, for it makes things much easier for you. Then, there are those who can print (typewriter or computer) the material, send us the hard copy and we will scan it and get it into a file format so the Editor can use it properly. Lastly, there are those who do not have a typewriter or a computer printer, and write their chapter news in longhand. This means we have to retype the material and depending upon how busy we are, it may or may not get done in time. Surely there must be at least one person in the Chapter that can type a report for you. By the way, doing the annual Chapter Report by hand is not all that great. Yours, and my, handwriting is getting worse as each year goes by.

Then there is the topic of Chapter news for the Journal. This, in the past, has been requested as a special article just for the Journal. We have slacked off from that approach, but here it is back again. Your news for the Journal should be special. This should not be a recanting of a Chapter meeting. Remember, people are looking for information about what your Chapter is doing. Election of new officers, participation in some special interesting event, a group visitation to some site... those are the kinds of things you should be looking at. At this time take a look at how many words you are using. We are going to have to limit the Chapter news to

somewhere around 350 words, more or less. That will not include any pictures that go with your news article. For the sake of this count, at this point, I am just over 500 words.

Topic is now pictures. We have had to make decisions about what we can and cannot use in the Journal. What we need is sharp, contrasty, black and white or color prints such as you get back from the photo shop. Generally, most of the later small cameras called "point and shoot" produce some very good prints. Try not to get too far from people and try not to supply us with a group shot in which we cannot distinguish faces. You would be surprised at the number of people who enjoy checking out all their friends, and also checking faces against calls they have logged.

One last request, following a number of complaints. When you do your reports for the Journal Please show the city and state and when you end it give your name and call, and e-mail &/or phone number, so that members may make contact with you.

Recruiting

In the forthcoming Journal is an article written by Gene Nailon, K5DLE, about recruiting. Once you have read this, read it again. Gene's chapter has gone from about 50 members to well over 100 this last year and he is the winner of a plaque for his recruiting efforts. What he is saying is "ask them" which is something we find hard to do, but which has to be done if you want to add to your chapter. You cannot afford to sit around and let someone else do your job. We receive a large number of requests for information and applications from all over the country. A common thread and statement is "I have waited twenty five years for this". I welcome them into the fold and then they go out to find a chapter.

A large number of our chapters have very active people and they check the new members list posted monthly on the Home Page or on the BBS. If there are any in their area they immediately get in touch with them and then follow up. Bingo, a new member for your chapter!!

Now for all of you out there Gene and his group have a great idea.

Check with those people responsible for ham conventions or hamfests in your area. Ask them to include "year of first licensing" on their application and then agree to share this information with you. Most of these places have this in some sort of data base and you can then delete all that are not eligible, those that are already members and utilize the remaining in a campaign to get new members.

A great idea and I think this will fly in our major activity here in Oregon, on the left side of the country.



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Chapter Membership

One of the frequently asked questions is about membership in more than one Chapter. Certainly, members can belong to as many Chapters as they wish, however, Headquarters lists only one Chapter membership, their primary Chapter in the database. Thusly, when it comes time for us to print out the annual list of members for a stated Chapter, we always get back questions about why we do not have a specific person listed for their Chapter. The record in the database is long enough now and most everything is geared to printing that information. If we tried to add more fields it would become an impossible task.

Another question that develops is how do they develop enough information on a member so that they know what to do in an emergency. One of our Chapters, Chapter 63, down in Oklahoma has a form they developed and I am sure they would be glad to share that format with you and they do it so they know who to get in touch with if an emergency arises. Along with that I might mention that one of our Canadian Chapters encourages their members to sit down and list their gear and then keep all the manuals in a particular place so that their administrator can help the surviving partner properly. For a copy of the Chapter 63 form, drop us a note at Headquarters.

On the subject of membership, all Chapters have one heck of a time getting new officers, everyone seems to be happy letting this guy "George" do it, but when it comes time to pay your "dues" to the Chapter, they really back out.

In a recent newsletter from Hernando Chapter # 148, Eunice Gordon, W1UKR, wrote "The copy maker, the envelope vendor, and the USPS demand payment. Bob supplies the computer, the data base program, and the upkeep and exercise thereof, while Ernie authors and types the newsletter. Together, we supply the spit. All gratis. Please send your dues." That should get the message across.

Brochure

I recently received a very well done brochure for the Nutmeg Chapter. It has several color pictures of the Chapter officers as well as an application to join the Chapter along with some information about that group.

Then all of this is a tri-fold handout for amateur events that they attend. I am sure it was created on someone's computer and color printer. I know others have developed similar handouts. Try it, it is great for your chapter.

After this exposure I bought a color ink jet for home and have been doing a similar project for my own Chapter. Right now we are collecting pictures of everyone and will incorporate them into the folder. Thank you Nutmeg Chapter for the development work. Do a survey of your members and the equipment that they have and you should be able to come up with a similar folder for your Chapter to use at Hamfests.

New Chapters:

I am pleased to announce that we have a couple of Chapters which have re-activated.

One of these is Northwest Indiana # 36, Ron Banaszak, WO9P is secretary.

We also have just recently re-activated Tidewater Virginia, # 119, Jim Wise, W4PRO is the secretary.

Both of the above have developed a good core group and are working on getting some former members active again.

Then we have a new Chapter this year in Boise, Idaho. It is the Gem State Chapter #201 and Carol Zimmerman, N7EIT is the secretary. From the correspondence I get they are having a great time. There have been several explorative attempts to get a Chapter started and finally the right combination developed.

Life Survey

In the Journal (Spring issue) will be an article in which the current survey of Life members is discussed. Our Treasurer, Duke Knief, W2YTO, has asked that I mention this to all of you Secretaries. Will you please ask your Life members if they have mailed back the survey? Also remind them that we must know their name and call as a great number have left this off the reply, and we cannot correlate the information. This summer Duke will have a tabulation of the responses.

This has been an interesting project which has involved a lot of work on the part of our Treasurer. The total mailing was in excess of 3000 to domestic members and several hundred to non-domestic members. At this time we have received about 2000 replies and those answers have cleared up a number of questions which we have had over the years.

Shortly, another letter will go out to those that did not answer the mailing reminding them that we would like the courtesy of an answer so the survey can be completed.

I would like to suggest that everyone should leave some instructions to the surviving members of the family advising just what should be done after a death. Notify the FCC about the death of the amateur and give them the current call sign. Our Oklahoma Chapter advises their members to list all their gear and keep all the manuals in a common place making it much easier for those that will advise on disposition of the equipment.

Then, notify the Headquarters of the radio associations that the person may belong to. I have talked to a number of the survivors and this subject seems to be a very minor item in their minds and so they just forget them when such a happening takes place.



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Ordering supplies and/or certificates

One of the problems with the vanity call sign program is identifying our proper people for awards or special supplies. We have now experienced someone ordering a pin with their callsign engraved and then we have two people with the callsign. Not to worry, however, one of them has NOT told us that he has changed his callsign and eventually it gets straightened out. Originally we thought that separating the SK calls from the primary data base would solve this problem, but it didn't do so.

For that reason, please, when you order certificates or other articles which need a callsign attached, give us the Call and the Name of the person. It certainly helps us get things done quickly.

Don't forget we do have some 50th Anniversary cups left and will be glad to have you purchase them. See the small ad in the Journal.

Election

This is an election year, again, and not too much has been said about the whole process. This issue of the Journal carries pictures and bios of all the candidates. We have the officers running unopposed, and there are 11 candidates for 10 Director positions. In this whole process we will get several new Directors on the BOD, and that is always a good experience.

The ballots will go out by the 15th of May and the polls will close on July 31, 1998. The new members of the BOD will take office as of the 1st of September, 1998.

The teller committee will be Chapter 63, our Oklahoma Chapter. They will report the results to Headquarters at the close of the elections and Headquarters will notify all candidates within 24 hours.

Esther Given, W6BDE

March 13, 1998 marked the date of Esther's becoming a SK. She was one of our most prolific writers in QCWA and a truly remarkable lady. Notice will be in the next issue of the Journal and will include some information on her past experiences in radio including an important position in the Army and their ships.

Esther served on the BOD for a number of years. She wrote the QCWA column in World Radio for quite a period of time and also in recent years did a column in the Journal about ladies in QCWA, which has been most interesting.

We will truly miss her wonderful personality and helpful attitude towards everyone. Most of all, the ability to enjoy good talks with her will be a void in our activities. She was one of our most valued resources in QCWA.

Convention 1998

In October of this year, the Leo Meyerson Chapter # 154 will sponsor the annual QCWA convention at Palm Desert, CA.. Although it is in the Journal (pages 52 and 53) it is not listed in the index of this issue of the Journal.

The dates are October 9 - 11, 1998 and promises to be a great event. The chairman of this event has a long experience with the chapter in their Spring event which has attracted people from all over the country.

They have found a good hotel for the event, and all of this is described in the pages of the Journal. This is just before the snowbirds start to flock back to the valley and so rates are rather decent. The temperature will be delightful and they promise a good time for everyone.

Set aside the time, come early, stay late and enjoy yourselves.

NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE

In the attempt to provide more creative time for the editor, we established some new 'due' dates for material for the Journal. At long range these would work out, but when we try to incorporate this close to the next issue it is just not workable. Our President agreed and so here is the new schedule for submissions:

April 20, 1998 for the Summer issue
July 5, 1998 for the Fall issue
Oct 1, 1998 for the Winter issue
Jan 1, 1998 for the Spring issue.

We already have submissions which came late or we didn't have room for in this issue. I will start sending those down to the editor, and you good people best get busy and send material and pictures to us and have them here by April 20th, 1998.

The new deadline for the Summer issue is April 20, 1998

This should help quite a bit, for all of us. Send us some good pictures, sharp and detailed. Please, do not write on the back with a pen, the ink easily transfers to any other prints that come into contact with the writing. Be sure to give us a rundown, left to right, on those people in the picture. If you don't attach that to the picture, then number the list and number the print, so they do not get confused in the layout of the Journal.

So, here we are at the bottom of the page and all kinds of good things have been shared. Got an article that you think others would like? Send it in and let us take a look. We have plenty of talent in our ranks, let's use it. We really need this material on a disk, as a .TXT file, or as printed copy. I have a new TextBridge pro program which does a wonderful job of scanning your printed page and bringing it into our format.

73, Jim Walsh, W7LVN

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HOT Line Report

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